(b) No such matter has been reported to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. A Special Livestock and Fisheries Package in 6 districts of Maharashtra is being implemented under which assistance is given under two components, as given below, to ensure adequate fodder for milch animals.

(i) Feed and Fodder Supply Programme.

(ii) Establishment of Fodder Making Units.

An amount of Rs. 6.12 crore was released to State of Maharashtra during 2006-07 for the above components. Also an amount of Rs. 72 lakh was released to Government of Maharashtra for setting up nine Milk Chilling Units in these districts.

(c) As mentioned in (a) and (b) above.

Decrease in cultivable land

†2757. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cultivable land is constantly on the decrease;

(b) the extent of decrease in the cultivable land in various States;

(c) whether Government propose to frame any law to check the decrease;

(d) whether shrinkage of cultivable land is the main reason for fall in the production of foodgrains; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for boosting agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates, there is a marginal decline in cultivable land from 185.09 million ha. in 1980-81 to 183.09 million ha. in 2004-05 due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc. The cultivable land in eleven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal has marginally decreased in 2004-05 as compared to 2000-01.

As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land and Water falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, it is for the States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of State Land Use Boards (SLUBs) through which State Governments have been advised to bring suitable legislation to prevent use of agricultural and for non-agricultural purposes. Some of the States, through their SLUBs have issued instructions and executive orders to the line departments of their Government to ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural purposes.

Though there has been a marginal decline in the cultivable land in 2004-05 as compared to 1980-81, the net sown area has more or less remained the same or slightly increased by 1.06 million ha. during this period which mainly contribute to the foodgrain production. During recent years, the vagaries of weather have been mainly responsible for affecting the foodgrain production in the country. The Government of India is implementing various Schemes/Programmes namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation for Enhancing Producivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA), Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Crop Production Management Programme, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), Development and Distribution of High Yielding Variety (HYV) Seeds, Use of Bio-technology, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Farm Mechanization, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Macro Irrigation, etc. for boosting agricultural production in the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are also contributing to the development of new technologies for boosting agricultural production.